

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 /063 W

O 042045Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3060

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8309

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINS, ASEC
SUBJECT: STRIKE ACTION DISSIPATING IN ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8276

1. RAILROAD AND SUBWAY WORKERS IN
BUENOS AIRES BEGAN RETURNING TO THEIR
JOBS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (NOVEMBER 3)
AND SERVICE HAS BEEN GRADUALLY RETURNING
TO NORMAL TODAY ON THE RAILWAY LINES AND
THE CITY SUBWAY SYSTEM. PORT OF BUENOS
AIRES STEVEDORES, WHO BEGAN A SLOWDOWN
YESTERDAY, REPORTEDLY ARE WORKING NORMALLY
TODAY, AS ARE THE MARITIME EMPLOYEES OF SHELL
OIL COMPANY WHO WERE ALSO ENGAGED IN A
SLOWDOWN, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS,
STRIKING LIGHT AND POWER, MARITIME AND PORT
WORKERS IN ROSARIO HAVE ALSO RETURNED TO WORK.
NEW STRIKES ERUPTED YESTERDAY IN OTHER LABOR
SECTORS IN BUENOS AIRES AND ROSARIO, BUT, WITH THE KEY
DECISION OF THE RAILROAD WORKERS TO SUSPEND THEIR STRIKE,
WE BELIEVE THAT THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS FURTHER SNOWBALLING

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/TPS
Margaret P. Griefeld, Director
(X) Release () Excise () Deny
Exemptions:
() In Part (X) In Full Declassify on
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

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PROBABLY HAS BEEN BROKEN--AT LEAST FOR NOW. CERTAINLY,

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THE THREAT OF A TOTAL URBAN TRANSIT STRIKE IN BUENOS AIRES HAS RECEDED ALTOGETHER IN THE BACKGROUND, AS VEHICULAR TRAFFIC HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY NORMAL TODAY.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT STATE ENTERPRISE WORKERS ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE WAGE INCREASES THAT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT THE COMBINATION OF DISMISSAL THREATS AND THE ARGUMENT THAT WAGE INCREASES WOULD NOT BEGIN TO BE PAID UNTIL THE WORKERS RETURN TO THEIR JOBS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE. IN THE CASE OF THE RAILROAD WORKERS, DISCUSSIONS ARE CONTINUING BETWEEN RAILWAY UNION LEADERS AND MILITARY INTERVENTORS, WHICH AT LEAST HAVE GIVEN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DOOR IS STILL OPEN FOR FURTHER WAGE ACCOMMODATION--THUS ALSO HELPING TO MAKE THE WORKERS' RETURN TO THEIR JOBS EASIER TO SWALLOW. HOWEVER, THE MILITARY'S POSTURE HAS BEEN TOUGH. THE ARMY, FOR EXAMPLE GAVE WIDE DISSEMINATION TO A COMMUNIQUE REPORTING THE KILLING OF A STRIKE PROVOCATEUR BY A MILITARY PATROL, PRESUMABLY AS AN ADDITIONAL WARNING TO THE WORKERS.

3. SOME ACTS OF SABOTAGE HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKE. THERE ALSO HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT THE MONTONERO ACTIVISTS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR INITIALLY IGNITING THE STRIKE, PARTICULARLY IN THE SUBWAY UNION, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO HARD INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THIS ASSERTION AND THE MAJORITY OF OUR SOURCES CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE THE SPONTANEITY OF THE STRIKE ACTION.
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